

Just in case you needed a refresher, let's talk about what teasing really is. Author Barbara Coloroso defines teasing:

1. Allows the teaser and person teased to SWAP roles with ease
2. Isn't intended to hurt the other person.
3. Maintains the basic dignity of everyone involved.
4. Pokes fun in a lighthearted, clever and benign way.
5. Is meant to get both parties to laugh.
6. Is only a small part of the activities shared by kids who have something in common.
7. Is innocent in motive.
8. Is *discontinued* when the person teased becomes upset or objects to the teasing.

Parents, teachers, don't assume that children understand these things and have the skills to differentiate if you don't address it, model it, talk about it, live it and intervene. If they do understand it and yet are continuing with their "teasing", guess what? It ain't teasing anymore.

Karen Lundy, LCPC

"The teaching never stops"